

I. AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 3, 13-19, 23, 29-39, and 41 without prejudice to renewal.

Please enter the amendments to claims 1, 6, 7, 20, and 26, as shown below.

Please enter new claims 42-45, as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing degeneration of retinal neurons a photoreceptor in a mammal caused by exposure to light to or other environmental trauma, the method comprising administering to the mammal, prior to, during or following such exposure, a dose of a neurotrophic factor effective to reduce degeneration of a photoreceptor retinal neurons, wherein said administration is intraocular or systemic, wherein said factor is selected from brain derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), ciliary neurotrophic factor (CNTF), neurotrophin-3 (NT-3), acidic fibroblast growth factor (aFGF), basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF), interleukin-1 beta (IL-1 β), tumor necrosis factor-alpha, and insulin-like growth factor-2, or an active fragment thereof; and wherein degeneration of a photoreceptor retinal neurons is reduced.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said neurotrophic factor is brain derived neurotrophic factor, ciliary neurotrophic factor, neurotrophin-3 or a combination thereof.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said administration is intraocular.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said administration is into the vitreous or into the subretinal (interphotoreceptor) space.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, 4 wherein said administration is systemic delivery.